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WERA Bulletin

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September/October 2010

This Bulletin is distributed to every Weir Estate property and our third party partners across Lambeth. Its purpose is to keep you informed of the important news, events and useful information which matter to those living on Weir Estate and working with Weir Estate Residents Association. WERA works for the benefit of residents in order to give us a voice for change and improvement. Our website has these and many other stories, interviews and useful information where you can find the very latest updates.

WERA needs residents support at our monthly meetings where you can have your say and raise your issues and concerns. The meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month from 7pm at The Weir Link, and is your chance to get involved and help improve our life, living on Weir Estate.

Please come along and support your association and OUR estate!

Morrison picks-up Connaught's Lambeth repairs contract

On Thursday 9th September, KPMG, Connaught Partnership's administrator made redundant all staff at Connaught Partnership's in Lambeth.

Lambeth Living has now announced that Morrison Facility Services has taken over its housing repairs service with immediate effect.

The decision was taken by the Lambeth Council's Cabinet following an emergency report submitted by Lambeth Living. Connaught plc and Connaught Partnerships Ltd went into administration on Tuesday, 7th September, and KPMG were appointed as the administrator who began to look for a buyer as the company had made huge losses and failed to secure loans to keep the company afloat. Lambeth Living were only legally able to withdraw the contract once Connaught had entered administration, which left a void for repairs beyond a priority one, which is within twenty four hours.

Many residents had to wait while Lambeth cabinet met to decide what would happen to the repairs in Lambeth. Following this meeting, it was felt that Morrison were in the best position to take control of the backlog of repairs and take control of

the contract until March when all the boroughs contracts are due to change, with Morrison keeping the central area which Weir Estate forms part of. Connaught provided responsive repairs to Weir Estate, although any empty properties will be given to



Mears to make good as Morrison does not have the capacity for this work.

Connaught Environmental and Compliance two other arms of the company are unaffected by the liquidation of Connaught Partnerships which has now seen over 1,500 staff losing their jobs. Morrison has also offered 24 Connaught staff contracts under the new deal and to manage the demand.



The new contract has already commenced and all works in the Lambeth Living priority system are said to be in the process of getting under way. Many residents are sure to be relieved that their household repairs are getting underway.

Many of Lambeth Living's Senior management met over the weekend to ensure the change over was ready for the Lambeth cabinet meeting. Before entering administration it had been expected that Connaught's contract would be extended until April. The company was said to have debts of £220 million. Dave McEvoy, WERA Chair said of the news "This is a huge relief to residents as we felt we were somewhat in limbo, we as a proactive residents association will embrace the new contractor and do what we can to make sure there is no drop in service delivery as well as welcoming them to our estate."

Lambeth Living have assured residents they are continuing to monitor the situation and that though it will take a few weeks, Morrison are the in the process of clearing the backlog.

In the first instance, please always report repairs, to Lambeth Living on 020 7926 6000.

Always get a job reference number.



Next WERA Meeting:

Tuesday 12th October 7pm to 9pm

at The Weir Link, 33 Weir Road, London, SW12 0NU



Special Guest: Cedric Boston, Director of Housing Management at Lambeth Living. Cedric is overall responsible for tenancy and leaseholder services.

Views on 20mph speed reduction and car club bays sought from residents across Thornton Ward

Residents on Weir Estate and across the whole of Thornton Ward are being consulted on new proposals to introduce a 20mph speed limit and Car Club bays across the area, which would include the introduction of a number speed humps to 'self-enforce' the reduction in speeding motorists.

Lambeth Council recently held 2 consultation events to gauge views of local people on the proposed measures. A consultation document has been sent to every property in the ward.

Often controversial measures such as raised tables on road junctions and various forms of road humps are being considered to regulate the speed of vehicles driving throughout Thornton Ward. This would also run alongside the currently stalled bus route extension.

After years of discussions between Lambeth Council, Councillors and Transport for London, Lambeth have confirmed in the documents that they now have the resources to introduce the road danger reduction measures in order to cut down the level of speed and 'rat runs' which operate across Thornton Ward.

Though the proposals and logistics of what would be introduced have not yet been decided, residents can share their views on what they would like to happen. As part of the consultation, residents are being asked to complete a questionnaire as well being invited to attend the consultation events.

A number of schemes have already been implemented successfully in the area such as resurfacing of Cavendish Road, kerb realignments, raised entry treatments known as 'raised tables', build outs and additional crossings, near some of the areas main schools. Lambeth are now seeking to expand the scheme to include all roads in the ward.



The scheme would cut the current 30mph speed limit down to 20mph which some road safety studies show cuts road deaths in half. Many residents have complained that vehicles speed along Weir Road which links the south circular road and Balham.

Weir Road would have a number of calming measures introduced while residents wait to find out when and if they will finally get the bus route which was consulted on some months ago.

Lambeth state that 'any road safety scheme would compliment the bus scheme' which has stalled while Wandsworth Council apparently make decisions on locations of bus stops. Residents are also reassured that the introduction of car hire bays in locations across the area will not affect existing parking spaces.

The closing date for the returning of the questionnaires is **15th October 2010.**

Further information can be sought from the Transport and Highways Team:

Haibat Abro Tel: 020 7926 0682 email: habro@lambeth.gov.uk
Genstacia Bull Tel: 020 7926 8989 email: gbull@lambeth.gov.uk



WERA's Website continues to go from strength to strength

Last month (September) proved to be the best by far for WERA's website (www.wera.org.uk) with an amazing 1427 visits!!!

You can find out the latest news at our website which we regularly update—as well as reading exclusive interviews with those who matter to Weir Estate. Check out our website at www.wera.org.uk.

This weeks' WERA Asks exclusive interview is with Cllr Peter Robbins, Lambeth's Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, available only at www.wera.org.uk

Weir Estate Residents Association

c/o The Weir Link, 33 Weir Road, London, SW12 0NT

✉ info@wera.org.uk 🌐 www.wera.org.uk